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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 1-72

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUESXBQ/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 5375
RUFHAU/AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY 0643
RUESHL/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 3576
INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 3876
RUFHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 0671

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 144344

SALT

SUBJECT: LOCALE FOR PHASE II OF SALT

REF: A. BERN 2175
B. BERN 2173
C. STATE 143534

1. APPRECIATE FAVORABLE RESPONSES OF SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL AND GENEVA CANTONAL GOVERNMENT, AND SWISS ASSISTANCE IN ACQUIRING SUITABLE FACILITIES.

2. EVERY EFFORT BEING MADE TO MEET SWISS CONCERNS (REFTEL A) AS WELL AS ASSURE FINNS AND AUSTRIANS ADVISED ON TIMELY BASIS. STILL AWAITING SOVIET RESPONSE (REFTEL C), NOW EXPECTED THURSDAY MORNING AUG. 10; IF RECEIVED, WILL PROCEED TO NOTIFY FINNISH AND AUSTRIAN EMBASSIES THURSDAY WITH STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE NOON FRIDAY.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PLANNED PRESS RELEASE WHICH WE BELIEVE MEETS SWISS CONCERNS, AND WHICH MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SWISS PER REFTEL A:

A. "THE GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND HAS APPROVED A REQUEST BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION TO HOLD THE SECOND PHASE OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS

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LIMITATION TALKS IN GENEVA, THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

B. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE U.S. AND THE USSR SINCERELY APPRECIATE THE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT AND COOPERATION RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF FINLAND AND AUSTRIA THROUGHOUT PHASE I OF SALT. HOWEVER, THE U.S. AND THE USSR CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT BECAUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE ROTATION BETWEEN HELSINKI AND VIENNA, IT WOULD BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO SETTLE UPON A SINGLE LOCATION.

C. NO DATE HAS AS YET BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE OPENING OF SALT PHASE II, BUT SHOULD IT BE AGREED TO START NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE U.S. SALT DELEGATION HAS ACQUIRED SUITABLE FACILITIES IN GENEVA, THE OPENING SESSION MAY TAKE PLACE IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA."

4. TODAY'S BOSTON GLOBE CARRIES WASHINGTON STORY ENTITLED "SALT TALKS SHIFT TO PERMANENT GENEVA SITE" INDICATING US AND SOVIET AGREEMENT ON GENEVA HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO SWISS GOVERNMENT. IF QUERIED, WE ARE HOLDING TO POSITION THAT NO FINAL AGREEMENT REACHED ON TIMING AND LOCALE FOR PHASE II OF SALT WITHOUT CONFIRMING OR DENYING STORY. IN MEANTIME WE ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS SOVIETS FOR EARLY REPLY (REFTEL C).

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